

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A zoom lens device comprising:
a zoom lens system having a plurality of lens units; and
an image sensor converting an optical image formed by the zoom lens system, into electric image data,

wherein lens surfaces constituting the zoom lens system are all refracting surfaces,
wherein zooming is performed by varying the distances between the lens units, and
wherein following conditions are satisfied:

$$3.1 \leq f_t/f_w \leq 5.5$$

where f_w is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length condition, and f_t is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the longest focal length condition.

2. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens ~~system~~device as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the plurality of lens units includes, from an object side:

a first lens unit;

a second lens unit; and

a third lens unit;

wherein the zoom lens systems of the embodiments satisfy the following condition:

$$0.1 < T_{23w}/f_w < 1.5$$

where T_{23w} is ~~[[the]]~~an axial distance between the second lens unit ~~(most image side)~~ and ~~the adjoining the third lens unit on the image side (most object side)~~ in the shortest focal length condition, and f_w is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length condition.

3. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens ~~system~~device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the zoom lens systems of the embodiments satisfy the following condition:

$$0.6 < T_{\text{sum}}/f_w < 2.6$$

where T_{sum} is the sum of the axial thicknesses of all the lens elements included in the zoom lens system; and f_w is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length condition.

4. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens ~~system~~device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of lens units includes a first lens unit consisting of a single negative lens element at a most object side of the plurality of lens units; and wherein ~~the zoom lens systems of the embodiments satisfy the following condition:~~

$$v_1 > 45$$

where v_1 is the Abbe number of the single negative lens element ~~constituting~~of the first lens unit.

5. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of lens units includes a first lens unit at a most object side of the plurality of lens units and wherein the first lens unit moves so as to draw a locus of a U-turn convex to the image side in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

6. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of lens units includes a first lens unit at a most object side of the plurality of lens units and wherein the first lens unit includes at least one aspherical surface.

7. (Original) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the focusing is performed by moving along the optical axis either a positive lens unit or a single lens element disposed in a position on the image side of a diaphragm and not included in the most image side lens unit.

8. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the zoom lens system consists of, from the object side:

[[the]]a first lens unit;
[[the]]a second lens unit; and
a third lens unit having a positive optical power.

9. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the zoom lens system consists of, from the object side:

[[the]]a first lens unit;
[[the]]a second lens unit;
a third lens unit having a positive optical power; and
a fourth lens unit having a positive optical power.

10. (Previously Presented) A digital camera comprising:
a zoom lens device including a zoom lens system and an image sensor;
the image sensor converting an optical image formed by the zoom lens system, into electric image data,

the zoom lens system having a plurality of lens units including a first lens unit disposed on the most object side and consisting of a single negative lens element; and
wherein lens surfaces constituting the zoom lens system are all refracting surfaces, wherein zooming is performed by varying the distances between the lens units, and wherein following conditions are satisfied:

$$3.1 \leq f_t/f_w \leq 5.5$$

where f_w is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length condition, and f_t is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the longest focal length condition.

11. (New) A zoom lens system comprising, from an object side:
a first lens unit;
a second lens unit; and

a third lens unit,
wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$3.1 \leq f_t/f_w \leq 5.5$$

where f_w is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length condition, and f_t is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the longest focal length condition.

12. (New) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$0.1 < T_{23w}/f_w < 1.5$$

where T_{23w} is an axial distance between a most image side of the second lens unit and a most object side of the third lens unit in the shortest focal length condition.

13. (New) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$0.6 < T_{sum}/f_w < 2.6$$

where T_{sum} is the sum of the axial thicknesses of all lens elements in the zoom lens system.

14. (New) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 11,
wherein the first lens unit consists of a single negative lens element, and
wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$v_1 > 45$$

where v_1 is the Abbe number of the single negative lens element.

15. (New) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first lens unit moves so as to draw a locus of a U-turn convex to the image side in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

16. (New) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first lens unit includes at least one aspherical surface.

17. (New) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 11 further comprising:
a diaphragm,

wherein focusing is performed by moving, along an optical axis, one of a positive lens unit or a single lens element, the positive lens unit or single lens element being located on the image side of the diaphragm and not included in a most image side lens unit.

18. (New) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the third lens unit has a positive optical power.

19. (New) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 18 further comprising:
a fourth lens unit having a positive optical power.